

ABSTRACT

THESIS: More than Headscarves and Hymens: A Feminist Analysis of Western Discourse Surrounding Muslim Women

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PAGES: 61

This thesis analyzes Western discourse surrounding Muslim women by examining Mona Eltahawy's *Foreign Policy* article entitled, "Why Do They Hate Us?" as well as its subsequent media responses. Through a feminist analysis of these texts, I examine the emergent themes of hybrid identity and a public discussion of colonialism and tie them to scholarship within critical rhetoric, feminism, postcolonialism, and post-9/11 media narratives. I argue that while there appears to have been some progress in granting agency and validity to these women in public discourses, there is still progress needed, particularly in the construction of feminist critical rhetorical scholarship.